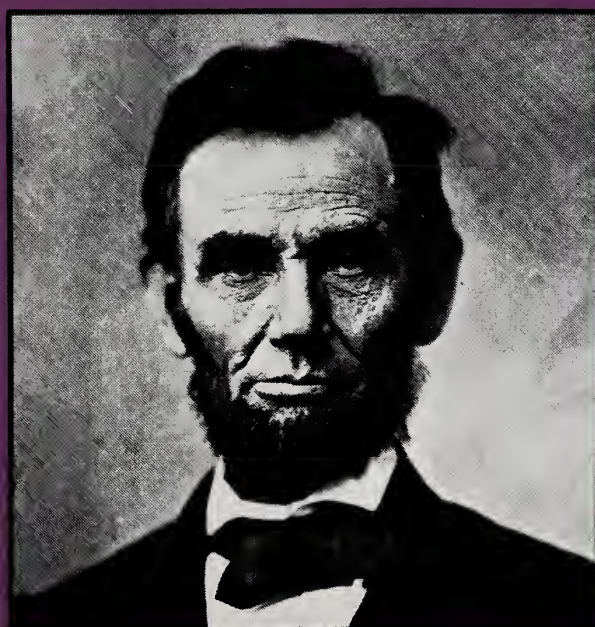
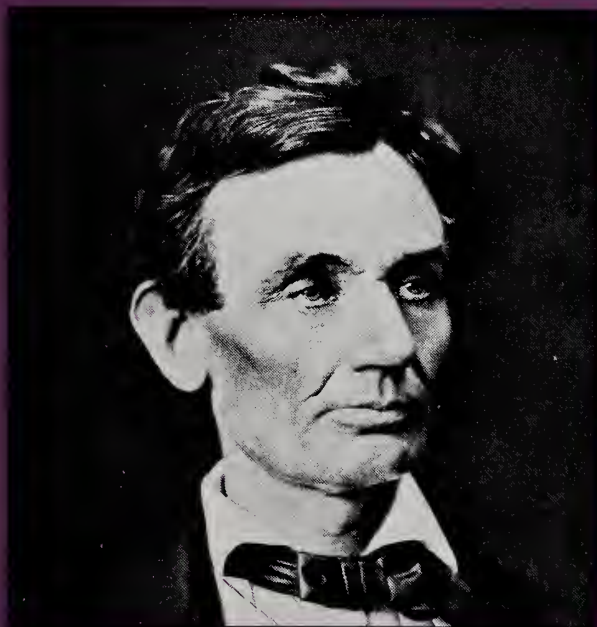
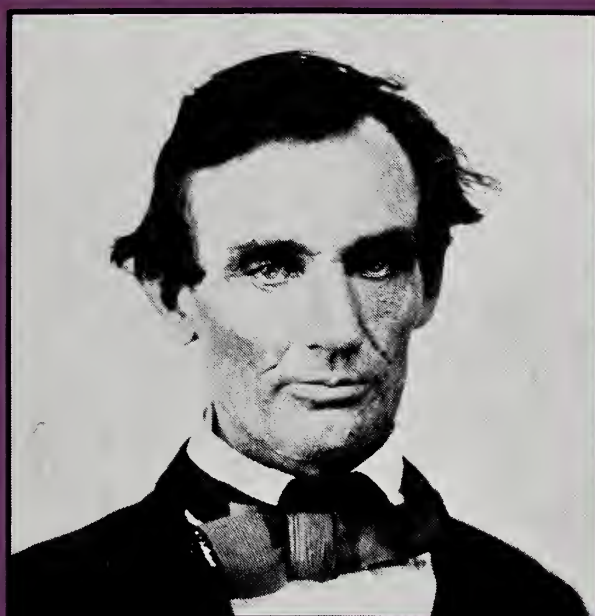
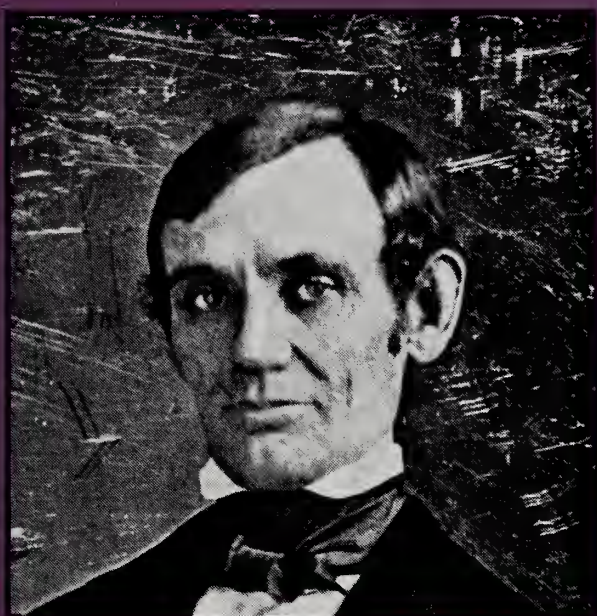

Abraham Lincoln Chronology



On the cover, views of Lincoln at various stages of his career. Upper left: The earliest known portrait of Lincoln, probably made when he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1846. Upper right: Lincoln was campaigning for Stephen Douglas's Senate seat when he sat for this pose on October 1, 1858. Lower left: The Republican presidential candidate, June 3, 1860. Lower right: The President on November 8, 1863, eleven days before his Gettysburg Address.

This revised and expanded edition of the *Abraham Lincoln Chronology* was edited by Thomas F. Schwartz, Curator of the Lincoln Collection of the Illinois State Historical Library, a division of the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency. The original chronology, authored by Harry E. Pratt, was published in the 1955-1956 *Illinois Blue Book*. James T. Hickey edited two other editions, one for the 1963-1964 *Blue Book* and another that was published by the Illinois State Historical Library in 1969.

Illinois Historic Preservation Agency Springfield, 1990

The Illinois Historic Preservation Agency is an equal opportunity employer. (10M-8-90) Printed by authority of the State of Illinois.



Abraham Lincoln was born in this cabin in Hodgenville, Kentucky, in 1809.

1809

February 12. "I was born February 12, 1809 in then Hardin County, Kentucky." The birthplace farm is about three miles south of Hodgenville, Kentucky.

1810

The census for Hardin County lists the family of Thomas Lincoln as consisting of a male between 26 and 45 years of age, with a wife between 26 and 45, a boy (Abraham) under ten, and a girl (Sarah) under ten.

1811

Spring. Thomas Lincoln and family move from the birthplace to a 230-acre farm on Knob Creek, ten miles north and six miles east of Hodgenville.

1812

A younger brother of Abraham, named Thomas, is born and dies in infancy.

1815

Autumn. For a few weeks in the fall of 1815 Abraham and his sister Sarah attend a school taught by Zachariah Riney. The following year the school is taught by Caleb Hazel.

1816

December. During the first of this month Thomas Lincoln moves his family from Kentucky to what is now Spencer County, Indiana (then Perry County).

1817

October 15. Thomas Lincoln travels to the government land office at Vincennes, Indiana, and records the farm he has settled on.

1818

October 5. Nancy Hanks Lincoln, mother of Abraham, dies of milk sickness.

1819

December 2. Thomas Lincoln, father of Abraham, marries Mrs. Sarah Bush Johnston in Elizabethtown, Kentucky.

1823

June 7. Thomas Lincoln becomes a member of the Pigeon Creek Baptist Church.

1828

January 20. Lincoln's sister Sarah, who married Aaron Grigsby on August 2, 1826, dies in childbirth. During this year Abraham and Allen Gentry take a flatboat loaded with cargo to New Orleans for Allen's father James Gentry.

1830

March 1. Thomas Lincoln's family and the families of his two stepsons-in-law start for Il-

linois. Abraham, one of the thirteen in the party, drives one of the three wagons.

March 15. The Lincoln family locates ten miles southwest of Decatur on the north bank of the Sangamon River (now Lincoln Trail Homestead State Park).

1831

March. Lincoln, his cousin John Hanks, and stepbrother John D. Johnston leave home. At Springfield, Denton Offutt hires them to help build a flatboat at Sangamo Town, seven miles northwest of Springfield.

April-July. Lincoln pilots the flatboat to New Orleans for Offutt and returns to New Salem, eighteen miles northwest of Springfield.

August 1. Lincoln casts his first vote at John Camron's house in New Salem — the voting place for Clary's Grove Precinct, which includes New Salem.

September. Lincoln begins clerking in Denton Offutt's new store at New Salem.

*I do hereby certify, that Nathan Drake volun-
teered and served as a private in the Company
which I commanded. in the regiment Comman-
ded by Colonel Samuel M. Thompson - of the
Brigade Commaned by Brigadier General Samuel
Whiteside, - in an expedition directed against the
Sac & Fox Indians - and that he was enrolled
on the 29th day of April & discharged on the
8th day of June 1832 - having served forty
and two thirds days - given under my hand
this 24th July 1832 -*

A. Lincoln. Captain

As a captain in the Blackhawk War, Lincoln was responsible for discharging soldiers in his ranks. This manuscript, in Lincoln's hand, certifies the discharge of Private Nathan Drake.

1832

March 9. Lincoln becomes a candidate for the legislature on a platform favoring improvement of navigation on the Sangamon River, changes in usury laws, and universal education.

April 7. Lincoln is elected captain of the 31st Regiment, Illinois Militia.

April 21. Black Hawk War volunteers from the New Salem area form a company and elect Lincoln captain.

May 27. Captain Lincoln's company is mustered out of service at Fort Johnson, Ottawa. He then enlists in Captain Elijah Iles' regiment for twenty days.

June 16. Lincoln re-enlists, joining Captain Jacob M. Early's independent spy company at Fort Wilbourn.

July 10. The mustering-out roll of Captain Early's company, written by Lincoln, is certified by Lieutenant Robert Anderson (who would be in command at Fort Sumter in 1861).

August 6. Lincoln, a candidate for the first time, is defeated in his bid for a seat in the Illinois legislature. He is eighth in the field of thirteen candidates.

1833

January 15. Lincoln and William F. Berry purchase from William Greene for \$750 the store in New Salem formerly owned by Reuben Radford.

May 7. President Jackson appoints Lincoln postmaster at New Salem. He serves until May 30, 1836, when the office is discontinued.

1834

January 6. Lincoln, as deputy surveyor of Sangamon County, makes his first known survey for Reason Shipley. He continues surveying for three years.

August 4. Lincoln, in his second bid for public office, is elected to the Illinois House of Representatives as a representative from Sangamon County.

September 30. Lincoln surveys the Mississippi River town of New Boston, now in Mercer County.

December 1. Lincoln takes his seat in the fifty-five-member Illinois House of Representatives at Vandalia.

1835

August 25. Ann Rutledge, legendary sweetheart of Lincoln, dies at the Rutledge farm seven miles northwest of New Salem.

December 7. Lincoln is present for the opening of a special session of the Illinois legislature in Vandalia.

1836

February 13. Lincoln addresses a large crowd in Petersburg to promote the proposed Beardstown and Sangamon Canal.

March 16. Lincoln purchases from the federal government a forty-seven-acre tract of land on the Sangamon River twelve miles northwest of New Salem.

March 24. Lincoln takes the first of three steps toward obtaining a license to practice law when his name is entered on the Sangamon Circuit Court record as a person of good moral character.

August 1. Lincoln is elected a second time to the Illinois legislature.

September 9. Two justices of the Supreme Court give Lincoln a license to practice law in all courts of the state.

October 5. Lincoln files a plea in his first law suit, Hawthorn v. Wooldridge, in the Sangamon County Circuit Court.

December 13. Lincoln writes his famous "love letter" to Mary Owens at New Salem.

1837

February 24. The bill for removal of the capital from Vandalia to Springfield, which Lincoln and other members from Sangamon County have promoted, is passed by the House of Representatives. The Senate reports its concurrence the following day.

March 1. As the final step toward becoming an attorney, Lincoln's name is entered on the roll of attorneys in the office of the clerk of the Illinois Supreme Court.

March 3. Making his first attack on slavery Lincoln, along with Dan Stone, enters in the *House Journal* his protest against an anti-abolitionist resolution passed by the House on January 20.

April 15. Lincoln moves to Springfield and becomes the law partner of John T. Stuart. He rooms with Joshua F. Speed.

1838

August 6. Lincoln is elected to the Illinois legislature for the third time.

December 3. At the opening of the Illinois legislature in Vandalia, Lincoln, a Whig, is defeated for speaker of the House of Representatives by W. L. D. Ewing, a Democrat.

1839

June 24. Lincoln is elected to the Springfield town board.

September 23. Lincoln begins the practice of law on the newly organized Eighth Judicial Circuit Court, a practice he continues until his nomination for the presidency.

October 8. Lincoln is named a presidential elector by the state Whig convention meeting in Springfield. He is also chosen in 1844, 1852, and 1856.

December 3. Judge Nathaniel Pope admits Lincoln to the practice of law in the United States Supreme Court.

December 9. The Illinois legislature, of which Lincoln is a member, meets in Springfield, the new capital, for the first time.

1840

April. Lincoln, as a Whig presidential elector, campaigns at rallies in Carlinville, Alton, Belleville, and Pittsfield.

June 18. Lincoln argues his first case in the Illinois Supreme Court.

August 3. Lincoln is elected for the fourth time to the Illinois legislature.

August-September. As a Whig presidential elector, Lincoln campaigns in southern Illinois.

1841

January 1. Lincoln's engagement with Mary Todd is broken. He is absent from the legislature for several days.

April 14. Stuart and Lincoln dissolve their law partnership, and Lincoln becomes the partner of Stephen T. Logan.

August-September. Lincoln travels to Louisville, Kentucky, for a three-week visit with his intimate friend Joshua F. Speed.

1842

March 1. Paying \$2 for his certificate, Lincoln is admitted to practice in the U.S. District Court.

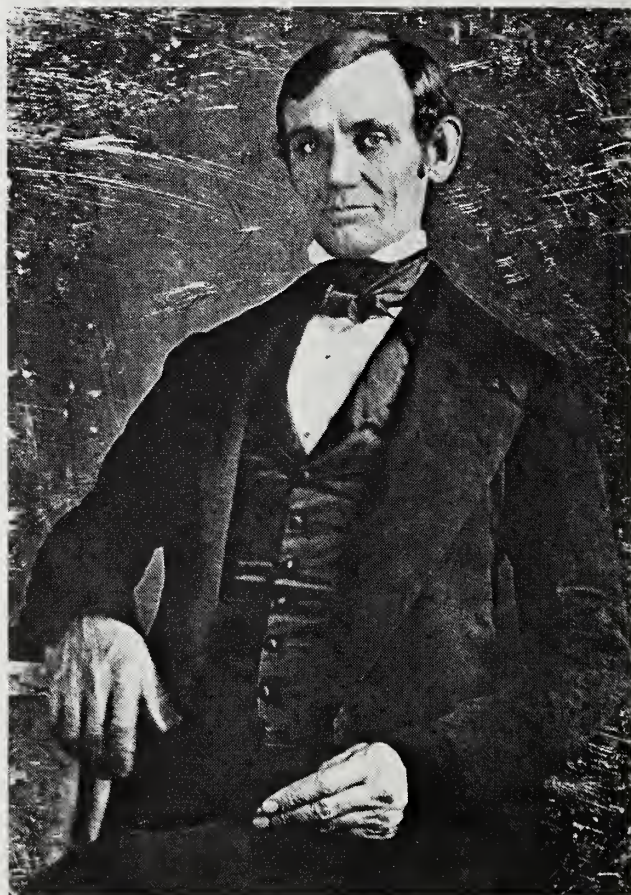
September 22. A proposed duel between Lincoln and James Shields is averted when friends on both sides intervene.

November 4. Lincoln and Mary Todd are married in the evening at the home of her brother-in-law Ninian W. Edwards. The Reverend Charles Dresser, an Episcopal minister, performs the ceremony.

1843

April 1. Mrs. Sarah Beck leases the Globe Tavern where the Lincolns live.

August 1. The Lincoln's first child, Robert Todd, is born at the Globe Tavern.



This daguerreotype, taken by Nicholas H. Shepherd in 1847, is the earliest known photograph of Lincoln.

1844

January 16. Lincoln and Reverend Charles Dresser sign a contract for Lincoln's purchase of the property now known as the Lincoln Home. The price is \$1,200 and a lot in the business section of Springfield. The Lincolns move in on May 1.

October-November. Lincoln, as a presidential elector, campaigns for Henry Clay in southern Illinois, Kentucky, and Indiana. He visits and speaks at his boyhood home near Gentryville, Indiana.

December 9. William H. Herndon is admitted to the bar. The firm of Lincoln and Herndon is organized soon afterward.

1846

March 10. The Lincolns' second child is born and is named Edward Baker.

August 3. Lincoln, with an unprecedented majority of 1,511 voters over his Democratic opponent Reverend Peter Cartwright, is the only Whig among seven congressmen elected from Illinois.

1847

November. The Lincolns and their two sons visit most of this month with Mrs. Lincoln's family in Lexington, Kentucky. From there they continue to Washington.

December 6. Lincoln takes his seat in the Thirtieth Congress, the only one of which he was a member.

December 22. Lincoln presents resolutions requesting President James K. Polk to inform the House whether the "spot" on which American blood was first shed in the Mexican War was within territory claimed by Mexico.

1848

June 7-9. Lincoln is present at the Whig convention in Philadelphia, which nominates General Zachary Taylor — Lincoln's choice — for president.

September 12-22. Lincoln, accompanied by his family, makes a ten-day speaking tour of New England.

1849

January 10. Lincoln reads his amendment to a resolution in Congress on abolishing slavery in the District of Columbia. His amendment provides for compensated emancipation. Abandoned by his backers, he never formally introduces the amendment.

March 7. Lincoln is admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court.

March 10. Lincoln applies for a patent on a "new and improved manner of combining adjustable buoyant chambers with steam boats or other vessels." The patent is granted on May 22.

June 21. Lincoln is denied appointment as Commissioner of the General Land Office.

August 21. Lincoln declines offer of the secretaryship of Oregon Territory.

September 27. Lincoln "cannot consent to accept" the governorship of Oregon.

1850

February 1. The Lincolns' second son, Edward Baker, dies after a fifty-two day illness.

July 25. In Chicago for the United States District Court session, Lincoln delivers a eulogy at city hall on President Zachary Taylor, who died earlier in the day.

December 21. The Lincolns' third son, William Wallace, is born.

<p>Abraham Lincoln, LINCOLN & HERNDON, Counsellors at Law, will practice Law and Chancery in this State.</p>	<p>W. H. Herndon. Attornies and in the Courts of Dec. 1847—54</p>
--	--

Shortly after William Herndon was admitted to the bar, Lincoln and Herndon formed a law partnership in Springfield. They advertised their services in the Illinois Journal.

1851

January 17. Lincoln's father Thomas, born in Virginia in 1778, dies in Coles County, Illinois.

1852

July 6. In the Hall of Representatives in the Capitol, Lincoln delivers a eulogy as Springfield pays tribute to Henry Clay.

August 14. Lincoln opens his campaign supporting Winfield Scott's bid for the presidency with a review of Douglas's July 9 speech at Richmond, Virginia. Unable to finish in two hours, he announces he will continue at the next meeting.

1853

April 4. The Lincolns' fourth son, Thomas (Tad), is born.

August 27. According to tradition Lincoln uses watermelon juice to christen the new town of Lincoln, named for him by proprietors Latham, Gillette, and Hickox.

1854

May 30. Lincoln is stirred by the passing and signing of the Kansas-Nebraska Act.

October 16. Lincoln and Douglas meet in Peoria. Lincoln delivers one of his first great speeches — substantially the same speech he had made in Bloomington on September 12 and in Springfield on October 4 — on the "repeal of the Missouri Compromise."

November 7. Lincoln is elected to the Illinois legislature, but resigns on November 27 to become a candidate for the U.S. Senate.

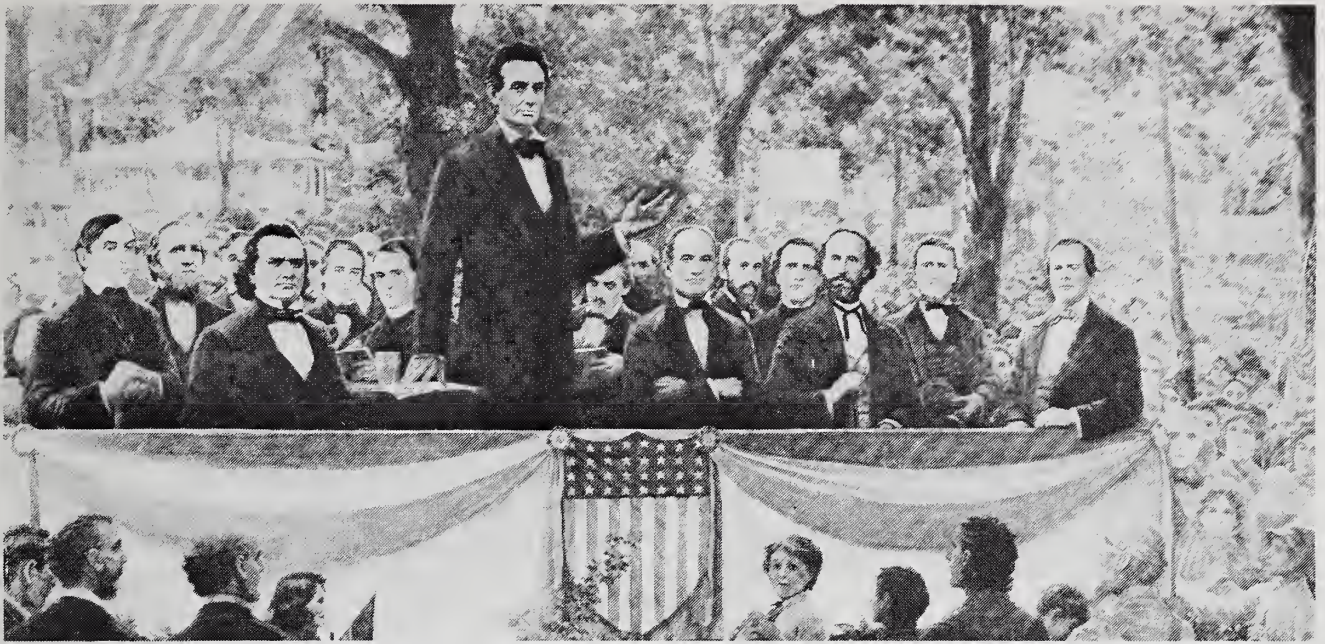
1855

February 8. To prevent the election of Joel A. Matteson to the U.S. Senate by the General Assembly, Lincoln throws his votes to Lyman Trumbull, who is elected on the tenth ballot.

August 18. Acting as agent for Mrs. Lincoln's aunt — Mrs. Maria L. Bullock of Lexington, Kentucky — Lincoln sells several lots in Bullock's addition to the city of Springfield.



The square in Springfield, circa 1858. Lincoln and Herndon situated their practice in the heart of the business district.



Robert Marshall Root painted the scene of the fourth Lincoln-Douglas debate in Charleston (Coles County). Seated to Lincoln's left is Stephen A. Douglas.

1856

February 22. Lincoln is responsible for the adoption of a statement of principles by convention at a meeting of anti-Nebraska editors in Decatur. This statement — on which all anti-Nebraska factions agree — marks the beginning of the Republican Party in Illinois.

Spring. Contractors Hannan and Ragsdale, at a cost of \$1,300, enlarge the Lincolns' home from a story-and-a-half to two full stories.

May 29. As a presidential elector for the fourth time, Lincoln delivers his famous "Lost Speech" at the organization of the Republican Party at Bloomington, Illinois. He makes "over fifty speeches" during the campaign.

June 19. The first Republican National Convention, meeting in Philadelphia, casts an informal ballot for vice-president and Lincoln receives 110 votes.

August 27. In Kalamazoo, Michigan, Lincoln speaks to a crowd of 10,000 gathered for a Republican demonstration for presidential candidate John Charles Fremont. Although Lincoln had received many offers to speak from outside Illinois, the Kalamazoo invitation was the only one he accepted.

December 1. Because of the absence of Judge David Davis, Lincoln presides over the Sangamon County Circuit Court. During a five-year period he acts as judge on several occasions in four different counties.

1857

June 18. The McLean County Circuit Court awards Lincoln his fee of \$5,000 in his suit against the Illinois Central Railroad. His largest fee, it was for successfully representing the railroad in the famous McLean County tax case.

June 26. Speaking in the House of Representatives in Springfield, Lincoln delivers his first major speech against the "erroneous" Dred Scott decision.

1858

April 6. Lincoln lectures on "Discoveries and Inventions" at Centre Hall, Bloomington, Illinois. He speaks on the same subject at Jacksonville (February 11, 1859), Decatur (February, 1859), Springfield (February 21, 1859 and April 26, 1860), and Pontiac (January 27, 1860).

May 7. Using an almanac to discredit the state's star witness, Lincoln clears Duff Armstrong, son of his old friend Jack Armstrong, of a murder charge in Cass County Circuit Court, Beardstown.

June 16. The Illinois State Republican Convention, meeting in the Hall of Representatives in the Statehouse in Springfield, unanimously resolves "that Abraham Lincoln is the first and only choice of the Republicans of Illinois for

U.S. Senate.” Lincoln accepts and in the evening delivers his “House Divided” speech.

August 21. At Ottawa Lincoln and Douglas hold their first joint debate. Six more debates are held at Freeport (August 27), Jonesboro (September 15), Charleston (September 18), Galesburg (October 7), Quincy (October 13), and Alton (October 15). Beginning in Chicago on July 10, Lincoln makes at least sixty-three speeches during the campaign.

November 2. In the election Lincoln gets a majority of the votes, but Douglas is re-elected because of the gerrymandered legislative districts. Lincoln describes the campaign as “a struggle in which I felt more than a merely selfish interest.”

1859

September 16-17. Lincoln is in Ohio, speaking in Dayton, Hamilton, Cincinnati, and twice in Columbus.

September 30-October 1. Lincoln speaks at the Wisconsin State Fair in Milwaukee, and at Beloit and Janesville the next day.

December 1-3. Lincoln is in Kansas and speaks at Elwood, Troy, Doniphan, Atchison, and

Leavenworth a few days before the territorial election.

December 20. At the request of Jesse W. Fell, Lincoln sends his autobiography, requesting that “if any thing be made out of it, I wish it to be modest.”

1860

February 27. In New York City, Lincoln delivers his famous Cooper Union address, which the *New York Tribune* prints in its entirety.

February 28. Lincoln begins a two-week speaking tour of New England, where he speaks eleven times. The stop at Exeter, New Hampshire, gives him an opportunity to visit his son Robert, who is attending Phillips Exeter Academy.

May 9-10. The Illinois Republican Convention, meeting in Decatur, unanimously instructs its delegation to the National Convention to support Lincoln, who is present, for president. It is here that he receives the nickname Rail Splitter.

May 18. Lincoln, who remains in Springfield, is nominated for president on the third ballot by the Republican National Convention in Chicago. Hannibal Hamlin of Maine receives the nomination for vice-president.

July. Robert Lincoln enrolls at Harvard University. After graduation in 1864 he becomes a captain on the staff of General Ulysses S. Grant.

October 19. Lincoln receives a suggestion from eleven-year-old Grace Bedell of Westfield, New York, that he grow a beard. He writes her, “As to the whiskers, having never worn any, do you not think people would call it a piece of silly affection if I were to begin it now?”


November 6. Lincoln becomes the first Republican to be elected president of the United States, defeating the three other candidates, Stephen Douglas (Northern Democrat), John C. Breckinridge (Southern Democrat), and John Bell (Constitutional Unionist).

December 20. “The Union Is Dissolved” with the secession of South Carolina.

1861

January 31. Lincoln makes a farewell visit to his aged stepmother in Coles County.

Let the People Rejoice!



LINCOLN ELECTED!

**THE PEOPLE TRUE TO LIBERTY.
ILLINOIS REDEEMED!**

SHE VOTES FOR LINCOLN.
She chooses Republican Legislature.
SHE REPUDIATES DOUGLAS.

GOD BLESS THE OLD KEYSTONE!!

GOD BLESS NEW YORK!

Lincoln carries all the Atlantic States but
New Jersey.

AN AVALANCHE OF FREEMEN.

SHOUT BOYS SHOUT, VICTORY IS OURS, FREEDOM IS TRIUMPHANT.

This broadside was printed to celebrate Lincoln's election to the presidency.

CHARLESTON MERCURY EXTRA:

Passed unanimously at 1.15 o'clock, P. M., December 20th, 1860.

AN ORDINANCE

To dissolve the Union between the State of South Carolina and other States united with her under the compact entitled "The Constitution of the United States of America."

We, the People of the State of South Carolina, in Convention assembled, do declare and ordain, and it is hereby declared and ordained,

That the Ordinance adopted by the Convention on the twenty-third day of May, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-eight, whereby the Constitution of the United States of America was ratified, and also, all Acts and parts of Acts of the General Assembly of this State, ratifying amendments of the said Constitution, are hereby repealed; and that the union now subsisting between South Carolina and other States, under the name of "The United States of America," is hereby dissolved.

THE UNION IS DISSOLVED!

President-elect Lincoln faced immediate struggles as head of state. Before his inauguration, South Carolina seceded from the Union.

February 4. The Confederate States of America is formed by representatives of South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana meeting at Montgomery, Alabama. Texas, which has also seceded, is not represented. Jefferson Davis is elected president and Alexander H. Stephens, vice-president.

February 11. Lincoln delivers a farewell address to the people of Springfield from the rear of his car at the Great Western Railroad Station.

February 23. After a twelve-day trip and many speeches and public appearances, Lincoln,

because of reports of an assassination plot at Baltimore, arrives secretly in Washington.

March 4. Lincoln is inaugurated the sixteenth president of the United States.

April 12-14. Fort Sumter is attacked and, after a thirty-four-hour bombardment, surrenders to Confederate forces and is evacuated.

April 15. In a proclamation President Lincoln calls forth "the Militia of the several States of the Union to the aggregate number of seventy-five thousand." He also convenes Congress to meet in extra session on July 4. Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Arkansas secede.

April 19. President Lincoln proclaims a blockade of ports in South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas.

April 27. Lincoln suspends the writ of habeas corpus along the line of troop movements between Philadelphia and Washington and extends the blockade to the ports of North Carolina and Virginia.

May 3. Lincoln calls for increasing the regular army by ten regiments or 22,714 men, for a total of 42,034 three-year volunteers, and for the enlistment of an additional 18,000 men for the Navy.

May 10. Lincoln directs suspension of the writ of habeas corpus on the Florida coast.

May 24. Lincoln weeps openly upon learning of the death of his young friend, Colonel E. E. Ellsworth, shot by the proprietor of Marshall House in Alexandria, Virginia, after he had removed a Confederate flag flying over the building.

June 3. Lincoln directs thirty days of mourning for Stephen A. Douglas, who dies in Chicago at the age of forty-eight. Douglas's "Preserve the Flag" address to the Illinois legislature on April 25 had united Illinois and encouraged thousands to enlist in the Union army.

July 2. Lincoln authorizes General Scott to suspend the writ of habeas corpus along the military line between New York and Washington.

July 4. Lincoln's war message is communicated to Congress as a formal government document.

July 21. In the evening Lincoln learns from Secretary Seward that General Irvin McDowell's army has been badly defeated at Bull Run.

July 27. Lincoln calls General George B. McClellan to the White House and places him in command of all troops in the Washington vicinity.

August 16. Lincoln issues a proclamation forbidding intercourse with states in insurrection against the government of the United States.

September 11. The President orders General Frémont to modify his emancipation proclamation of August 30 to conform to the act of Congress of August 6, 1861. This angers the antislavery faction but preserves the border states' allegiance to the Union.

October 21. Lincoln learns of the death of Colonel Edward D. Baker at the battle of Ball's Bluff. Both the President and Mrs. Lincoln are deeply grieved by the death of their old friend for whom they had named their second son.



The press often dealt harshly with Lincoln. This cartoon entitled "A President-Elect's Uncomfortable Seat" appeared in Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper on November 24, 1860.

November 1. The cabinet accepts the resignation of General Winfield Scott. Lincoln informs General McClellan, "I have designated you to command the whole army."

November 23. Lincoln and Secretary Seward, on the steamer *Mount Washington*, visit the Union flotilla on the Potomac River.

November 24. Lincoln holds a conference at the War Department with members of his cabinet and several senators concerning Mason and Slidell, the Confederate commissioners to Great Britain and France who were seized on the British steamer *Trent*.

December 3. Lincoln sends his annual message to Congress.

December 25. The cabinet meets in lengthy session on the "Trent Affair." The following day a decision is reached to release the men. Lincoln reports that the "affair has been settled amicably." In the evening, the Lincolns entertain a large number of guests at Christmas dinner.

1862

January 11. Lincoln accepts Secretary of War Cameron's resignation and offers him the post of minister to Russia, which Cameron accepts. On January 13 Edwin M. Stanton is named the new Secretary of War.

January 31. Lincoln issues Special War Order No. 1 directing the Army of the Potomac "to move before, or on, the 22nd day of February next."

February 6, 16. Fort Henry on the Tennessee River and Fort Donelson on the Cumberland are surrendered to Union forces under General Grant, giving the Northern armies their first important victories.

February 14. Lincoln issues Executive Order No. 1 relating to political prisoners.

February 20. William Wallace (Willie) Lincoln dies. He is the second son the Lincolns have lost.

February 26. Lincoln, by military order pursuant to an act of Congress, takes over all telegraph lines.

March 8. Lincoln issues General War Order No. 2 and General War Order No. 3. The first orders McClellan to organize the Army of the Potomac into four army corps, and the second, that he leave sufficient forces in and about Washington to make it entirely secure.

March 9. Lincoln learns that the Confederate ironclad *Merrimac*, which had destroyed Northern ships at Hampton Roads, has been forced to retire by the Union ironclad *Monitor*.

April 1. Lincoln goes to Alexandria, Virginia, to see General McClellan, who is beginning a four-month campaign on the Virginia Peninsula.



Photographer Mathew Brady took numerous photos of Lincoln and his family. This photo of Mary Todd Lincoln was taken in 1862.

April 6-7. General Grant's Union forces and General Albert Sidney Johnston's Confederate forces clash at Pittsburg Landing in Shiloh, Tennessee, with serious losses to both armies.

April 25. Secretary Welles informs Lincoln that New Orleans has been captured by Admiral David G. Farragut's Northern naval expedition.

May 5-12. Lincoln makes a trip to Fortress Monroe, Virginia, for conferences with military and naval leaders.

May 15. Lincoln approves an act establishing the Department of Agriculture.

May 19. Lincoln voids General Hunter's Order No. 11 freeing slaves in the Department of the South.

May 20. Lincoln approves the Homestead Law, which grants homesteads to those settlers on public domain land.

May 22-23. Lincoln visits the army at Fredericksburg, Virginia.

June 1. General Robert E. Lee succeeds General Joseph E. Johnston as commander of the Confederate army of Northern Virginia after Johnston is wounded in battle with McClellan's forces at Fair Oaks Station.

June 23-25. Lincoln travels by train to New York City and West Point for a conference with General Winfield Scott.

June 26. Lincoln issues an order combining forces under generals Frémont, Banks, and McDowell into a new Army of Virginia under the command of General John Pope.

July 1. Lincoln calls into military service 300,000 volunteers and approves an act providing for a tax of three per cent on incomes in excess of \$600.

July 2. Lincoln approves the Morrill Land Grant College Act donating public lands to states and territories for colleges of agriculture and mechanical arts.

July 7-10. Lincoln takes a boat to Fortress Monroe and Harrison's Landing, Virginia, to visit General McClellan and other army and navy leaders.

July 11. Lincoln names General Henry W. Halleck general-in-chief of all land forces.

July 17. Lincoln signs "an act to suppress insurrection, and to punish treason and rebellion, to seize and confiscate property of rebels, and for other purposes." Congress authorizes the conscription and acceptance of Negroes into military and naval service.

August 9. Lincoln orders a draft of 300,000 militiamen to serve for nine months.

August 22. In answer to Horace Greeley's critical editorial "The Prayer of Twenty Millions," Lincoln writes, "My paramount object in this struggle is to save the Union, and is not either to save or destroy slavery."

August 30. Northern forces under General Pope are defeated at Bull Run. Lincoln feels General McClellan "wanted Pope defeated."

September 2. Lincoln places McClellan in "command of the fortification of Washington, and of all the troops for the defense of the Capital."

September 17. General Robert E. Lee's Northern invasion is stopped by McClellan at the Battle of Antietam (Southerners called it Sharpsburg) in Maryland.

September 22. Lincoln reads his preliminary Emancipation Proclamation to his cabinet and then issues the edict, which frees slaves of rebels, effective January 1, 1863.

September 24. Lincoln suspends the writ of habeas corpus as it applies to "all Rebels and Insurgents" arrested by military authority.

October 1-4. Lincoln visits General McClellan at the headquarters of the Army of the Potomac and tours battlefields in the vicinity of Antietam.

November 5. Lincoln replaces General McClellan with General Ambrose E. Burnside as commander of the Army of the Potomac.

November 26-27. Lincoln makes a trip to Aquia Creek, Virginia, and confers with General Burnside on the steamer *Baltimore*.

December 1. Lincoln sends his second annual message to Congress.

December 12. General Burnside's Army of the Potomac is defeated at Fredericksburg, Virginia.

December 31. Lincoln reluctantly approves a bill admitting West Virginia to the Union.

1863

January 1. Lincoln issues the final Emancipation Proclamation, which declares free all slaves by states in rebellion.

February 25. Lincoln approves an act establishing a system of national banks.

April 4-10. Lincoln, Mrs. Lincoln, and Tad visit General Joseph Hooker at the headquarters of the Army of the Potomac at Falmouth, Virginia.

May 2-4. The Army of the Potomac under General Hooker is defeated at Chancellorsville, Virginia.

May 6-7. Lincoln visits General Hooker and the Army of the Potomac.

June 27. Lincoln relieves General Hooker of command of the Army of the Potomac and replaces him with General George G. Meade.

July 1-3. The Confederate invasion of Pennsylvania under Lee is defeated by General Meade at Gettysburg.

July 4. General Grant's long siege of Vicksburg comes to an end with General John C. Pemberton's surrender of his Confederate troops.

July 30. Lincoln prepares an order of retaliation: "That for every soldier of the United States killed in violation of the laws of war, a rebel soldier shall be executed; and for every

one enslaved by the enemy or sold into slavery, a rebel soldier shall be placed at hard labor on the public works," which he issued July 31 by the Adjutant General as General Order No. 252.

September 18. Lincoln orders army discharge for William ("Duff") Armstrong, whom he had successfully defended in a murder trial in 1858.

September 20. The Northern army is defeated at Chickamauga Creek. This is later offset by a victory at Chattanooga on November 25.

October 1. Lincoln sets forth in detail General Schofield's duties as commander in Missouri.

October 3. Lincoln proclaims the first national observance of Thanksgiving, to be held November 26.

November 19. Lincoln delivers his dedicatory address at the National Cemetery at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

November 21. Lincoln is ill with a mild case of smallpox.

December 8. Lincoln issues a proclamation of amnesty to Confederates who take the oath to support the U.S. Constitution.

December 9. Lincoln's annual message is read to both houses of Congress.



Lincoln with his son Tad in 1864.

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

A Proclamation.

Whereas, on the twenty-second day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-two, a proclamation was issued by the President of the United States, containing, among other things, the following, to wit:

"That on the first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State, the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall be then, thenceforward, and forever, free; and the Executive government of the United States, including the military and naval authority thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of such persons, and will do no act or acts to repress such persons, or any of them, in any efforts they may make for their actual freedom.

"That the Executive will, on the first day of January aforesaid, by proclamation, designate the States and parts of States, if any, in which the people thereof, respectively, shall then be in rebellion against the United States; and the fact that any State, or the people thereof, shall on that day be in good faith represented in the Congress of the United States, by members chosen thereto at elections wherein a majority of the qualified voters of such State shall have participated, shall, in the absence of strong countervailing testimony, be deemed conclusive evidence that such State, and the people thereof, are not then in rebellion against the United States."

Now, therefore, I, ABRAHAM LINCOLN, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, by virtue of the power in me vested as commander-in-chief of the army and navy of the United States, in time of actual armed rebellion against the authority and government of the United States, and as a fit and necessary war measure for suppressing said rebellion, do, on this first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and in accordance with my purpose so to do, publicly proclaimed for the full period of one hundred days from the day first above mentioned, order and designate as the States and parts of States wherein the people thereof, respectively, are this day in rebellion against the United States, the following, to wit: ARKANSAS, TEXAS, LOUISIANA, (except the Parishes of St. Bernard, Plaquemines, Jefferson, St. John, St. Charles, St. James, Ascension, Assumption, Terre Bonne, Lafourche, St. Mary, St. Martin, and Orleans, including the City of New Orleans,) MISSISSIPPI, ALABAMA, FLORIDA, GEORGIA, SOUTH CAROLINA, NORTH CAROLINA, AND VIRGINIA, (except the forty-eight counties designated as West Virginia, and also the counties of Berkeley, Accomac, Northampton, Elizabeth City, York, Princess Ann, and Norfolk, including the cities of Norfolk and Portsmouth,) and which excepted parts are for the present left precisely as if this proclamation were not issued.

And by virtue of the power and for the purpose aforesaid, I do order and declare that all persons held as slaves within said designated States and parts of States are and henceforward shall be free; and that the Executive government of the United States, including the military and naval authorities thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of said persons.

And I hereby enjoin upon the people so declared to be free to abstain from all violence, unless in necessary self-defence; and I recommend to them that, in all cases when allowed, they labor faithfully for reasonable wages.

And I further declare and make known that such persons, of suitable condition, will be received into the armed service of the United States, to garrison forts, positions, stations, and other places, and to man vessels of all sorts in said service.

And upon this act, sincerely believed to be an act of justice warranted by the Constitution upon military necessity, I invoke the considerate judgment of mankind and the gracious favor of Almighty God.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the CITY OF WASHINGTON this first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the eighty-seventh.

[L. S.]

By the President:

Abraham Lincoln

Secretary of State

A true copy, with the autograph signatures of the President and the Secretary of State.

Printed by the President.

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth upon this continent, a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived, and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle-field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives, that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate—we can not consecrate—we can not hallow—this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember, what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here, have, thus far, so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they here gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.



John Wilkes Booth shot President Lincoln at Ford's Theatre in Washington, D.C. This photo of the theater and surrounding buildings dates from the 1860's.

1864

February 22. Lincoln receives the endorsement of the Republican National Committee by a majority of four to one.

March 9. Lincoln presents his commission as lieutenant general to General Grant in the cabinet chamber. The following day he appoints Grant commander-in-chief of the armies.

March 14. Lincoln issues a call and orders the draft of 200,000 men for military service.

April 18-19. Lincoln attends the opening of the Maryland Sanitary Commission Fair at Baltimore and delivers a fifteen-minute speech.

May 5-12. Union armies under Grant, and Southern armies under Lee, are engaged in constant battle in the Virginia wilderness.

June 8. The National Union Party convention, meeting in Baltimore, nominates Lincoln for president and Andrew Johnson of Tennessee for vice-president.

June 16-17. Lincoln attends the Great Central Fair in Philadelphia.

June 20-23. Lincoln visits General Grant at City Point, Virginia.

June 28. Lincoln approves the act repealing the Fugitive Slave Law.

June 30. Lincoln accepts the resignation of Secretary Chase, and the following day nominates William P. Fessenden as the new Secretary of the Treasury.

July 4. Lincoln pocket-vetoes the "Wade-Davis" reconstruction bill.

July 11. Lincoln sees his only military action of the war as the Confederates attack Fort Stevens on the outskirts of Washington.

July 18. Lincoln issues a call for 500,000 volunteers.

July 30-31. Lincoln visits General Grant at Fortress Monroe, Virginia.

September 1. General William T. Sherman's Union forces occupy Atlanta, a Northern victory which helps insure Lincoln's re-election.

October 21. Lincoln tenders thanks of the nation to General Philip H. Sheridan for the successful conclusion of the Shenandoah Valley campaign.

1864



Lincoln's body was carried to Springfield on this train. From April 21 to May 3 mourners gathered on the travel route to pay tribute to the assassinated president.

October 31. Lincoln issues a proclamation admitting Nebraska into the Union.

November 8. Lincoln is re-elected president, easily defeating his Democratic opponent George B. McClellan.

November 21. Lincoln writes his famous letter of sympathy to Mrs. Lydia Bixby.

December 1. Following the resignation of Attorney General Bates, Lincoln appoints James Speed in his place.

December 6. Lincoln sends his fourth annual message to Congress.

December 19. Lincoln issues a call for 300,000 volunteers.

December 22. Lincoln receives the capture of Savannah, Georgia, as a "Christmas gift" from General Sherman.

1865

February 1. Lincoln approves the resolution submitting to the states the Thirteenth Amendment, which abolishes slavery.

February 3. Lincoln conducts a four-hour peace conference with Confederate representatives on board the *River Queen* in Hampton Roads, Virginia.

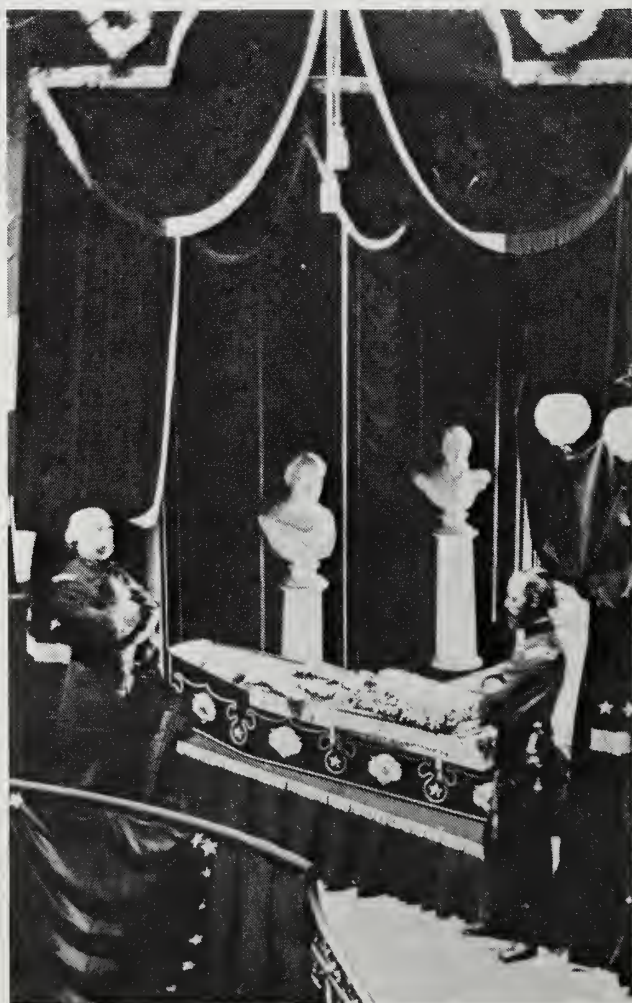
March 3. Lincoln approves an act establishing the Freedmen's Bureau for the care of Negroes.

March 4. Lincoln delivers his Second Inaugural Address, which includes the famous line "with malice toward none; with charity for all!"

March 11. Lincoln issues a proclamation offering pardon to deserters who return to ser-

vice and inflicting loss of citizenship on those who do not.

March 23-April 6. Lincoln visits General Grant at City Point, Virginia.



Lincoln's remains were carried on May 3 to the Statehouse, where he would lay in state.

April 4-5. Lincoln visits the evacuated city of Richmond, Virginia.

April 9. General Lee surrenders to General Grant at Appomattox Court House, Virginia.

April 11. From a window of the White House, Lincoln, in his last speech, discusses the status of the Confederate states and his plan for restoring them to the Union.

April 14. Lincoln is shot by Actor John Wilkes Booth in Ford's Theatre.

April 15. Abraham Lincoln dies at 7:22 A.M. in the home of William Petersen.

April 19. Funeral services for the President are held in the White House.

April 21. The Lincoln funeral train leaves Washington and makes its first stop at Baltimore. After a brief stop at York, Pennsylvania, it arrives at Harrisburg in the evening.

April 22. The funeral train arrives in Philadelphia. The body is conveyed to Independence Hall.

April 24. Leaving Philadelphia early in the morning, the funeral train arrives in New York City at 10:00 A.M., and the body is taken to city hall.

April 25. Leaving New York at 4:15 P.M. the funeral train arrives in East Albany at 10:55 P.M. The remains are escorted to the Capitol in Albany.

April 27. The funeral train arrives in Buffalo, New York. The body is carried to St. James Hall.

April 28. The funeral train arrives in Cleveland, Ohio. The body is escorted to a specially built temple in City Park.

April 29. The funeral train arrives at Columbus, Ohio.

April 30. The funeral train arrives in Indianapolis, Indiana. The remains are borne to the Statehouse.

May 1. The funeral train arrives in Chicago. The remains are taken to the courthouse.

May 3. The funeral train reaches its destination in Springfield, Illinois at 9:00 A.M. The body is escorted to the Statehouse.

May 4. Lincoln is buried in a public receiving vault in Oak Ridge Cemetery, Springfield. He leaves a net estate of \$110,296.80 to his widow and two sons.



Lincoln's remains were interred in the public receiving vault at Oak Ridge Cemetery in Springfield on May 4, 1865. On September 19, 1871, they were transferred to the nearby Lincoln Tomb.

1865



The Lincoln Home was draped in mourning as delegations turned out to pay their last respects to the late Sixteenth President. In 1887 Robert Todd Lincoln presented the Lincoln Home to the State of Illinois. A national landmark, the home is today maintained by the National Park Service.

May 11. The National Lincoln Monument Association is organized to plan the final resting place of Lincoln.

1870

July 14. Congress grants Mrs. Lincoln an annual pension of \$3,000.

1871

July 15. Thomas "Tad" Lincoln dies in Chicago of dropsy of the chest. He is buried in the partially completed Lincoln Tomb at Springfield.

September 19. Lincoln's body is moved from the public receiving vault to a crypt in the partially completed tomb.

1874

October 15. The National Lincoln Monument Association dedicates the still uncompleted Lincoln Tomb designed by Larkin G. Mead, Jr. President Ulysses S. Grant speaks briefly, and the principal address is delivered by former governor Richard J. Oglesby.

1876

November 7. Three men attempt to steal Lincoln's body. Frightened away from the tomb by secret service agents, they are later captured in Chicago. Tried in Springfield for burglary, they are sentenced to one year in the penitentiary. The Lincoln Guard of Honor is formed to protect Lincoln's remains.

1882

January 16. Congress increases Mrs. Lincoln's annual pension from \$3,000 to \$5,000, with an additional gift of \$15,000.

July 16. Mrs. Lincoln dies in the Springfield home of her sister, Mrs. Ninian W. Edwards — the same home where she and Lincoln were married. She is interred in the Lincoln Tomb with her husband and three of their four sons.

1887

June 16. Robert Todd Lincoln and his wife, Mary Harlan Lincoln, present the Lincoln Home in Springfield to the State of Illinois. The first floor is opened to the public.

1895

May 30. The National Lincoln Monument Association deeds ownership of the Lincoln Tomb to the State of Illinois.

1901

The State of Illinois begins to rebuild the Lincoln Tomb. The two-year restoration includes the construction of a new foundation and an increase in the height of the shaft from 98 to 135 feet.

1919

Robert Todd Lincoln deposits his father's papers with the Library of Congress. The storage trunks of documents arrive sealed.

1922

May 30. The Lincoln Memorial at Washington, D.C., is dedicated. Robert Todd Lincoln imposes restrictions on his donated Lincoln papers at the Library of Congress. He instructs the Library to keep the papers sealed for twenty-one years after his death.



The Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. was dedicated in 1922. It stands on the Mall opposite the Washington Monument.

1926

July 26. Robert Todd Lincoln dies and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

1931

June 17. The remodeled Lincoln Tomb is rededicated by President Herbert Hoover.

1947

July 26. The Lincoln papers at the Library of Congress are opened exactly twenty-one years after Robert Todd Lincoln's death.

1955

February 12. The entire Lincoln Home is restored by the State of Illinois to the appearance of the period when the Lincolns lived there, and the second floor is opened for the first time to the public.

1971

August 18. The State of Illinois deeds ownership of the Lincoln Home to the the National Park Service.

September 1. Lincoln Isham, great-grandson of Abraham Lincoln, dies.

1975

July 10. Mary Lincoln Beckwith, great-granddaughter of Abraham Lincoln, dies.

1976

February 12. Daniel Boorstin, Librarian of Congress, reveals the contents of Lincoln's pockets on the night of his assassination.

1977

The Mary Todd Lincoln House where Mary Todd lived from 1832 to 1839, opens through the efforts of the Kentucky Preservation Foundation, Inc.

1978

September 19. The Illinois State Historical Library receives the Robert Todd Lincoln papers from his grandson, Robert Todd Lincoln Beckwith.

September 18. Restoration of Robert Todd Lincoln's summer residence — Hildene — in Manchester, Vermont, begins under the auspices of the Friends of Hildene.

1985

February 12. The State of Illinois purchases the Lincoln/Herndon Law Offices in Springfield.

December 24. Robert Todd Lincoln Beckwith, the last direct descendant of Abraham Lincoln, dies.

1988

April 30. The Chicago law firm of Isham, Lincoln, and Beale, which Robert Todd Lincoln founded, is dissolved.

June 16. Following a two-year restoration project, the National Park Service rededicates the Lincoln Home.



Old State Capitol • Springfield • 62701